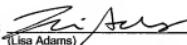


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.8(a)(4).

Dated: September 16, 2008

Signature:



(Lisa Adams)

Docket No.: 101896-283 (DEP5154USCIP)  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Sean P. Selover et al.

Application No.: 10/711,704

Confirmation No.: 5703

Filed: September 30, 2004

Art Unit: 3733

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE SPINAL FIXATION ELEMENT  
PLACEMENT

Examiner: J. L. Swiger

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 29, 2008, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.